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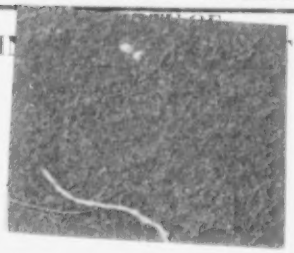

Industrial Development Board

Resumed eighteenth session
Vienna, November 1997
Agenda item 5

FUTURE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF UNIDO

Intersessional working group on the future role and functions of UNIDO

Report of the Chairman
(Mr. I. Posta, Hungary, President, Industrial Development Board)

Summary

Updates the progress report on the work of the intersessional working group submitted to the seventeenth session of the Board (IDB.17/25).

1. In its decision IDB.S.7/Dec.3, the Board decided to establish an intersessional working group with equitable geographical representation, under the chairmanship of Mr. I. Posta (Hungary), to further advance the process of definition of the future role and functions of UNIDO. The Chairman submitted a written progress report to the seventeenth session of the Board (IDB.17/25) containing a Draft business plan on the future role and functions of UNIDO, that was subsequently adopted by the Board (IDB.17/Dec.2). In addition, the Chairman provided an oral report on the work of the working group (cf. summary record IDB.17/SR.3, paras. 1-8).

2. In its decision IDB.17/Dec.2, the Board also requested the intersessional working group to continue its work and to further develop, in consultation with the Secretariat, a set of criteria and indicators that would allow the future assessment of the implications and monitoring of the implementation of the UNIDO reform process, including the performance of the Organization, in particular through the programme and budgets.

3. The present report is submitted in compliance with paragraph (f) of decision IDB.17/Dec.2, in which the Chairman of the intersessional working group is requested to report to the Board before the seventh session of the General Conference.

4. At a meeting convened on 28 August 1997, the intersessional working group considered advance versions of the indicative 10, 20 and 30 per cent budget reduction proposals for the programme and budgets, 1998-1999, submitted by the Director-General (IDB.18/15/1-3). The working group also had before it advance versions of documents submitted by the Director-General on programmatic and policy implications of the indicative budget reduction proposals (IDB.18/15/4), and on their personnel and financial implications (IDB.18/15/5). Document IDB.18/15/4, chapter VI, contained information on a first set of basic quantifiable performance indicators, which were noted with appreciation.

5. At the meeting, it was acknowledged that the volume of documentation and its recent distribution did not permit a thorough examination of the many implications contained therein. Following a general discussion, supported by Secretariat presentations, the working group considered that the issue should be taken up by the Programme and Budget Committee at its thirteenth session, and that it had concluded its work.

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